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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

Tales of the Legendary Talespinners

Heroism begins at home

JOE THE BARBARIAN™

Written by
GRANT MORRISON

Art by
SEAN MURPHY

An 8-issue Series JANUARY 2010

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Kuhoric's Spin Zone

Do you ever find yourself thinking that kids today have no imaginations?

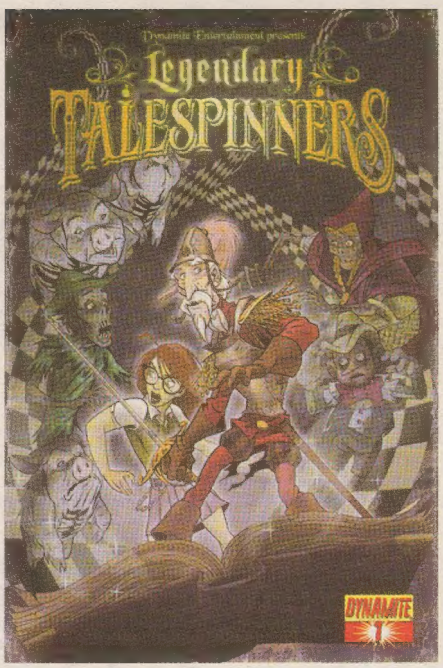
Well, *James Kuhoric* can tell you why—and that's just what he does in his new miniseries ***Tales of the Legendary Talespinners.***

While other series focus on the fictional creations of literature and legend, ***Talespinners*** focuses on the creators of the stories. "***Legendary Talespinners*** is a story that I've had bouncing around my mind for the better part of this decade," Kuhoric said. "It started as most good tales do—with a single character—and grew organically from there. I wanted to tell the story of a girl, Abby, who locked her imagination away at an early age; I wondered what would happen to her if she were dragged into a crazy world that didn't jive with her orderly perspective of life. From there, ***Talespinners*** developed into a story that was part ***Alice in Wonderland*** and part ***Wizard of Oz*** with a large dash of ***Big Fish*** and ***Shrek*** thrown in for good measure.

"At its heart, ***Talespinners*** is about the power of imagination and belief in the magical elements of life. It has a dark side to it as well, as we'll find out—the scars of childhood and their impact on adult life are one of the themes that lie just beneath the surface of the story. And the degenerative state of the fantasy world is an allegory for the loss of innocence and lack of imagination in today's society."

Talespinners follows Abby as her dulled imagination is reawakened. "We did our best to make Abby and her transformation from shy introverted girl into the Dreamer, a Legendary Talespinner, something that everyone could relate to," Kuhoric said. "Deep inside, everybody knows that they were meant for more than the humdrum of everyday life. ***Legendary Talespinners*** is an escapist dream that forces us to own up to our childhood wishes and experience the familiar tales of the past with a new twist. And in so doing, we must face the darkness that threatens to overtake those dreams when we lock away our imaginations in favor of the mundane machinations of everyday life."

Are broader fantasy-based series like this more accessible to casual readers than superhero adventures? "I love superhero comics and graphic novels," Kuhoric said. "And ***Talespinners*** is certainly very different from most of the work I've done with horror and SF stories over the years. But I see this particular series as something that could appeal to readers of all ages and genders. While the book is all-ages accessible, it does have layers that will appeal to all fans in the way that *Jeff Smith's* ***Bone*** transcends those imposed boundaries.



"To accomplish that, I had a very specific plan for the presentation of the book and especially the creative team we would need to illustrate the story. The finished graphic novel collection of ***Legendary Talespinners*** is meant to read like a major animated feature like ***Monsters vs. Aliens*** or ***Up***. From day one when I was introduced to *Nick Bradshaw*, I have loved his work—Nick's illustration of my ***Army of Darkness*** stories are among my favorites to date. He just has a way of understanding a script and delivering art that perfectly captures the spirit of the story. I had no doubt in my mind that having Nick involved with the design and art direction of ***Talespinners*** would make sure my vision for the world was perfect. The covers he supplied for the series are amazing – they're part homage to some of the original Baron Munchausen tales and beautifully mix the elements of ***Legendary Talespinners*** into them.

"The most important part of making ***Legendary Talespinners*** into 'an animated feature on paper' is having the right person doing the interior art. When I brought the idea to the Dynamite crew, I already knew who the interior artist had to be. Ever since I read ***The Clockwork Girl***, I wanted to work with *Grant Bond*. His animated style was ideal for story I wanted to tell, but more importantly his ability to capture vibrant expressions in his panel work had me sold on him as the only choice for ***Talespinners***. Over the course of the last six months, Grant has been amazing to work with and has gone above and beyond to make this series really special. When it is collected into trade format and you get to see all the behind-the-scenes work he put into character design and layouts, you will be amazed."

"James contacted me almost a year ago," *Grant Bond* added. "He'd seen some of my older stuff and was interested in me accomplishing the same look for ***Legendary Talespinners***. After speaking with him for a while, I could tell he was one of the good guys in comics and had a great vision for an interesting story, so I decided I had to jump on board."

What ultimately hooked Bond was the story itself. "It really is an interesting twist to the these genres," Bond said. "The biggest challenge has been simply ensuring that I'm accomplishing Jim's vision for this unique and intriguing world... My goal is to create and interesting feel to the artwork that catches the readers' attention and draws them in."

Kuhoric points out that his series isn't another take on ***Fables, Imaginaries,*** or ***Stuff of Legend,*** all of which focus on the fictional characters, not their creators. "*Bill Willingham* has been one of my favorite creators for the past two decades. ***Fables*** is such a fun read and really has developed a world that is familiar to everyone with a brilliant mix of classic elements and fresh presentation. But I've always felt that fairy tales got their power and 'life' from their telling and re-telling over many generations.

"It occurred to me that the strongest of those people who spun the tales would have attained a certain level of immortality by the influx of power that the belief in their stories generates. That premise became one of the main story elements in developing the existence of the remnant fairy tale world, and even the continued longevity of characters like Baron Munchausen and Mother Goose. All the stories have a stored power in them because of the wonder they have induced over the years, but the *storytellers* are the focal points for that power."

Does Kuhoric feel that today's children have truly lost much of their imaginative power? If so, why? "I have to be careful answering this one so that I don't sound like Mr. Wilson from ***Dennis the Menace*** and start yelling, 'hey, you kids, get off my lawn!" Kuhoric joked. "When people have asked me why more children aren't reading comics, I often make the argument that technology has made the ultimate difference in how recent generations view printed material. When I was young, way back in the 1600s, you didn't have DVDs, the internet, or PS3s to occupy and spoon-feed your imagination one pixel at a time. Sure, we had television and Pong, but when we wanted a superhero fix, we would read comics and then draw out our own adventures. Today if you really wanted to know if the Hulk could beat the Thing in a throw down, you just have to get a copy of Marvel Ultimate Alliance and go to town.

"I can't say that I blame kids—I'm an adult and I love watching blu-ray discs and playing videogames. But there is more to having a rich and vibrant imagination than just soaking in what game designer or DVD producers have put together for you."

Ultimately, the series can be seen as a paean to the powers of imagination. "***Legendary Talespinners*** is about one particular girl who locked her imagination away at a young age and didn't look back. Abby was one of the contributors to the slow creeping death of the fantasy world. By not believing in the old fairy tales and fables of her childhood, she was unknowingly contributing to the decay of that fantastic world of fiction and frivolity. But when she is dragged over the rainbow, her destiny as a Legendary Talespinner unfolds. And once the flood gates of her imagination are opened, the places she can go and the creatures she can create are virtually-limitless. Unfortunately for her, one of the most beloved storytellers of all time has turned into a power-hungry devourer of tales and Talespinners. And young Abby is now the main course on the menu..."

Are the fictional creations real in this series--that is, are the talespinners tapping into a reality that others don't see? "The premise of ***Legendary Talespinners*** is that the power of telling stories over the centuries and the belief in them has kept the fantasy world alive on the other side of the mirror. It was the wonder and belief the stories created that gave birth to the people and creatures that populate the fantasy world.

"But as belief faltered, so too did that world begin to wane. When Mother Goose, one of the most powerful of the Legendary Talespinners, realized that

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her vitality and immortality were dissipating, she came up with a sinister plan to maintain her power. Thus, the guardian of the fantasy world and the gatekeeper of the fairy tales became the most unlikely wicked witch of them all. As Abby starts to believe in the tales, her imagination draws her in and starts to reshape the fantasy world. In the end, she must be the one to either save the tattered remnants of the world of fables... or bury it."

Will the series feature appearances by any of the well-known talespinners from our real world, or are Kuhoric's talespinners creations of his own fertile imagination? "You never know," Kuhoric replied. "I firmly believe that creators like *Neil Gaiman*, *Alan Moore*, and *Warren Ellis* are modern day Talespinners; if they were okay with me adding them, I'd love to work them into the story in the future because they make up the quintessential fabric of what a Talespinner is.

"But for the time being the Talespinners we encounter in the first miniseries are from an older age. We do take some liberties with the classic tales here by expanding them with new twists and turns, much like the characters themselves would have as their stories continued to evolve over time. A character like Baron Munchausen is perfect for our story, because he was renowned for coming up with ridiculous tales based on his escapades. It would make sense that he would continue to exaggerate his own experiences and develop new areas of the fantasy world with each tall tale."

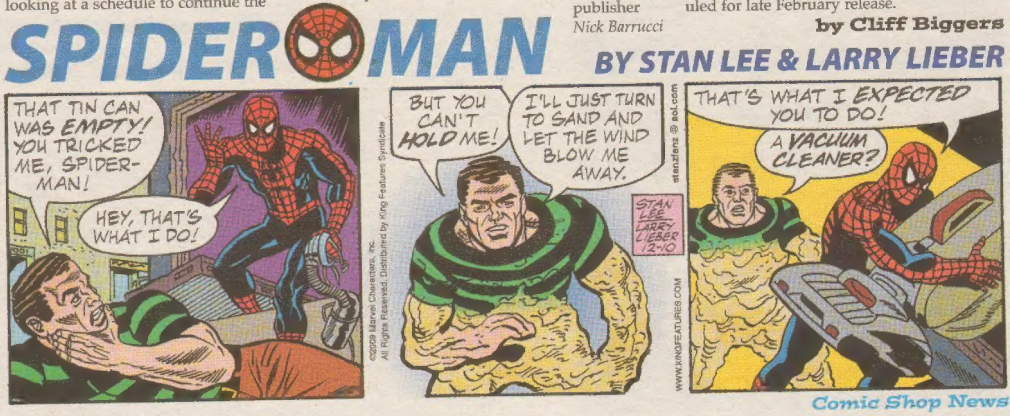
Fables, Unwritten, Imaginaries, Stuff of Legend, and now ***Talespinners***--it seems that many writers are attracted to the metafictional, since these series all focus to one degree or another on the blurred lines between reality and fiction. Why is that theme is so popular? "I'm a huge fan of *Neil Gaiman's* work, which in my humble opinion was the catalyst for the explosion of metafictional stories we've seen in comics over the past decade. For example, ***Stardust*** is a beautiful story that has all the elements of a fairy tale, but with a modern sensibility in the telling that created a unique and enjoyable reading experience. Everyone loves the familiar feel of the old stories of childhood, and creators like Neil have found a way to make the things that fascinated us as kids grow into something new which can capture our imagination as adults. I hope that I've accomplished something similar in the story of the ***Legendary Talespinners*** and that people enjoy this peek into the twisted world of fantasy."

Is ***Legendary Talespinners*** just a self-contained three-part story, or is this the beginning of a larger series of miniseries? "The first installment of ***Legendary Talespinners*** is a complete story that will introduce readers to the main characters and the concept of stories having a 'life of their own.' But it is only the first chapter in a much longer tale. In ***Talespinners,*** we are watching as a very powerful storyteller is born. Abby's continued adventures are a bit darker in tone than the initial arc (and that's including the fact that they have to face a horde of zombified fairy tale critters in our first series). If fan interest in the series continues, we will be looking at a schedule to continue the story later in 2010."

Legendary Talespinners is the latest addition to Dynamite's increasingly diverse line of books, which includes superhero adventure, SF, classic literature, realistic war fiction, and sophisticated fantasy. Has this diversity been a part of the Dynamite plan all along, or has it developed along with the imprint? "I think it's been a little of both," publisher *Nick Barrucci* said. "We've been fortunate in that we've either been able to reach out to creators about projects and genres that we're interested, or these unique properties have tended to find their way into our orbit, where we can spend the time to develop them."

Tales of the Legendary Talespinners #1, a $3.99 comic by *James Kuhoric & Grant Bond* with art direction by *Nick Bradshaw,* is scheduled for late February release.

by Cliff Biggers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HEY, THAT'S WHAT I DO!
BUT YOU CAN'T HOLD ME!
I'LL JUST TURN TO SAND AND LET THE WIND BLOW ME AWAY.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-10
THAT'S WHAT I EXPECTED YOU TO DO!
A VACUUM CLEANER?
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COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

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IDW Rides With Desperado

For almost a half-decade, *Joe Pruett's* Desperado Publishing has offered a superlative blend of cutting-edge independent comics, award-winning art volumes, and provocative graphic novels. While that's not going to change, one aspect of Desperado's business plan is undergoing a radical shift: the company is joining in a publishing agreement with IDW Publishing which will bring Desperado's impressive roster of talented creators and expansive catalog of books to IDW under a new imprint.

Joe Pruett told ***CSN*** how the deal came about. "It just seemed like a smart move. IDW and Desperado seem to have similar tastes (heck, they're publishing a few items that I've had on my wish list since the day Desperado was formed—the ***Bloom County*** and ***Rocketeer*** collections being two that jump to mind) and I respect and admire the way they do business.

"The market was becoming increasingly difficult for smaller companies such as Desperado, so IDW seemed like the logical company to talk with. We started negotiating back in early May—and even though there were other companies I had conversations with, I knew that IDW was the place I wanted to be, so I'm glad we were able to work things out.

"If there was one company that I would admit to being envious of, it would be IDW. Watching them transform from a start-up company to the present-day publishing beast has been nothing if not inspiring. Everything about IDW speaks to how much they love this industry and love what they are doing. We at Desperado look forward to a long, prosperous relationship. As the famous quote goes, 'I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.'"

"We are very excited to have Desperado join us," IDW chief operating officer *Greg Goldstein* said. "Desperado's books and roster of creators are both very impressive, and as an IDW imprint, Joe will have the flexibility and support to expand both."

What are the benefits to IDW and to Desperado from this cooperative venture? "The number one benefit for Desperado is that I can stop focusing on the day-to-day business side of things so much and instead focus on the creative side," Pruett said. "This will allow me more time to design the books, recruit talent and projects, and actually get back into writing again. Another benefit is that now Desperado doesn't have to go it alone as a small fish in a big pond. We get to have IDW's muscle and expert knowledge and resources to get or product out into the marketplace.

"The primary benefit for IDW is that they get to include our extremely successful art book and diverse graphic novel lines into their library; they also get my years of experience in all aspects of the comic industry and our relationships with some of the top creative talent in the industry. It's really a win-win for both sides."

What are the first books slated for release under the new deal, and when will readers see them? "Our first joint venture will be a rescheduling for March 2010 of the 312 page, hardcover, retrospective art book ***Tony Harris: Art & Skulduggery HC***," Pruett said. "It's a beautiful book and his fans (and fans of comic art) will love it. After that we'll be re-releasing ***The Art of P. Craig Russell HC***, which had been unavailable for the past year due to a problem in our printers warehouse. We'll also have new comic work coming up from *Dave Dorman, Phil Hester, Keith Champagne, Brian Bolland,* and other top creative talent. The art book line will continue to feature the industry's biggest names with new volumes focusing on *George Pérez, Dave Dorman, Jim Starlin,* and others I'll discuss at a later date."

Will already-solicited projects be rescheduled to appear under the new IDW deal, or will they be published independently by Desperado? "Both," Pruett said. "We're going to go ahead ***and release Obergeist: the Essential Edition HC, Deadworld: Slaughterhouse HC*** and ***Deadworld: Frozen Over #4***. These titles have been ready to go for a while, but were held back while we negotiated the IDW deal. They'll all be out around the end of January.

"In addition to the *Tony Harris* art book, some titles this will affect are ***Exit: The Complete Series TP; Rolling Thunder: The Art of Dave Dorman HC***; the ***Death Valley*** limited series; ***Extinction TP***; and the ***Necessary Evil*** series."

What happens with already-released books--will they be available through IDW, or will Desperado continue to offer those separately? "As of now, our previous library of titles will still be available through Desperado Publishing. The one exception currently being the aforementioned ***Art of P. Craig Russell HC***, which will be re-released through IDW in April. That may change as time moves on, but for now that's the current arrangement."

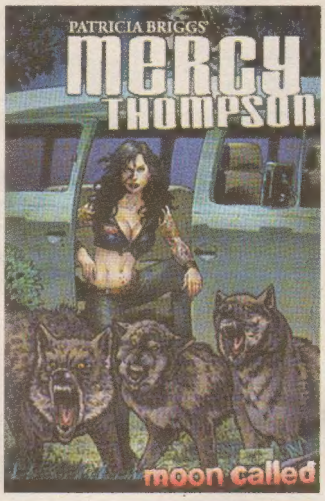
Does the deal with IDW limit the number of titles Desperado can offer? "We haven't been told that we can only do a certain amount of titles, but we're going to use our best judgment and not try to do too much. I'd rather focus on a few titles at a time and do each of them extremely well than try to put out too many titles too quickly."

Pruett is clearly enthusiastic about the new publishing agreement, and optimistic that it's going to put Desperado books on the radar for a lot of readers who might not have previously sampled his offerings. "It's going to be a fun ride!" Pruett said.

IDW Shows Mercy

IDW, home of numerous horror and dark fantasy series, is about to add one of the most popular horror/fantasy properties to their lineup with the addition of ***Mercy Thompson: Moon Called,*** a miniseries and graphic novel based on the first book in *Patricia Briggs'* best-selling novels. ***Moon Called*** will be co-produced with the *Dabel Brothers,* who published the first Mercy Thompson comics project, ***Homecoming,*** one of 2009's best-selling graphic novels.

Moon Called, written by *Derek Ruiz* and illustrated by *Clint Hilinski,* will begin in February as a four-part miniseries, followed by an August-release graphic novel.

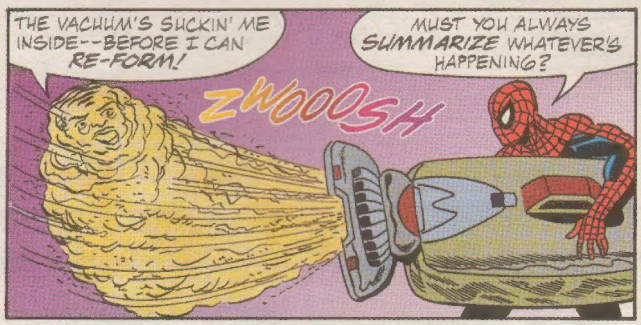


The Dabels are also working on an Ace Books on their first graphic novel project, *Alpha and Omega: Cry Wolf,* based on *Patricia Briggs'* Mercy Thompson spinoff series. That series should launch in August (the same month that Briggs releases the second ***Alpha and Omega*** prose novel), with a graphic novel compilation slated for late 2010 release.

Turbines to Speed

With the release of Coheed & Cambria frontman *Claudio Sanchez's* collected edition of ***The Amory Wars: Second Stage Turbine Blade Volume Two*** this month, he's offering fans of the group and the comic more than just a reprint of the limited series. Instead, this volume will include the story "33," an untold tale of the Amory War's Patrick McCormick and the moments leading up to his demise, by Sanchez and artist *Dave Hamann.*

"***The Amory Wars*** is a science fiction story based on a family's quest to understand where it fits into the universe of Heaven's Fence," Sanchez


THE VACUUM'S SUCKIN' ME INSIDE--BEFORE I CAN RE-FORM!
MUST YOU ALWAYS SUMMARIZE WHATEVER'S HAPPENING?
ZWOOOSH
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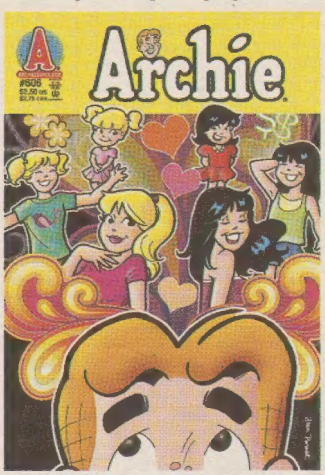
said. "The second volume delves deeper into what the reader found out in the first volume–Coheed and Cambria were created for something bigger than your average mom and dad living in the suburbs. What really sets the story in motion is when they find out that this 'larger purpose' in the scheme of the universe isn't for the bettering of mankind, but to actually destroy it."

Amory Wars: Second Stage Turbine Blade Volume Two, featuring art by *Gabriel Guzman* and covers by *Tony Moore*, is slated for release this week.

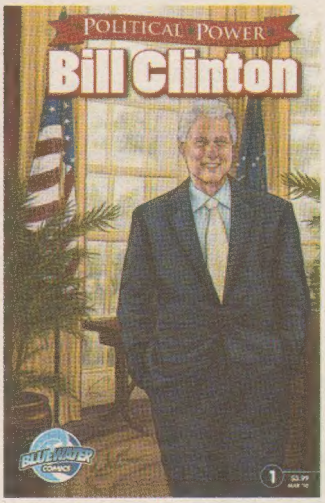
CSNsider

•Beginning with the August release of ***Archie #600,*** *Michael Uslan & Stan Goldberg* offered readers an intriguing look at two possible futures for Archie Andrews: one in which he married Veronica, the other in which he married Betty. While the story wraps up in January, Uslan and Goldberg reunite to present a special epilogue to the



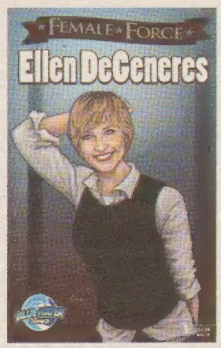
"Archie Gets Married" six-parter in February's ***Archie #606***. Archie's walks up "Memory Lane" provided not one but *two* glimpses of his possible future… but how does he explain it to his friends… especially Betty and Veronica!

•*Ken Krueger*, longtime fan, publisher, retailer, and distributor, died on November 21st at the age of 83 as the result of a heart attack. Krueger, who was one of the founders of San Diego Comic-Con, died just weeks after another of the con's co-founders, *Shel Dorf*, passed away. Krueger was involved in SF fandom from its earliest days, and was an attendee of the first World Science Fiction Convention in the summer of 1939.



•Bluewater's biographical comics offerings continue in March with ***Political Power: Bill Clinton,*** a look at the career of the 42nd President courtesy of writer *Robert Schnakenberg* and artist *David McNeil;* and ***Female Force: Ellen DeGeneres,*** spotlighting the life of the comedian and talk show host in a comic by *Sandra C. Ruckdeschel & Pedro Ponzo*.

•He may be the fastest man alive, but you might not be able to tell that from his publishing schedule! ***The Flash: Rebirth #6,*** originally solicited for September release, has now been pushed back to January 27th, 2010, a week after the release of ***The Flash: Blackest Night #2.*** (Don't fret that this will delay the 2010 debut of the new ongoing ***Flash*** series, though; work is already underway on that series!)

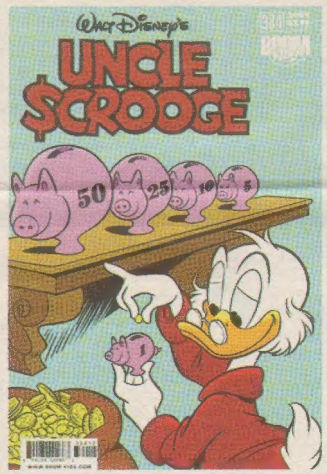


•Marvel has added a foil-enhanced "foilogram" 1-for-25 variant for ***Ultimate Comics Enemy #1;*** look for the regular edition and the variant on 1/27.

•Titan Publishing is joining forces with World Wrestling Entertainment, and the result will be WWE Comics, led by ***WWE Heroes,*** slated for March 2010 release. The series will feature the fictional adventures of the biggest WWE superstars and divas., such as *Triple H, Undertaker, Jerry Lawler, Chris Jericho,* and *Edge*. The first issue focuses on an eternal rivalry set against the backdrop of the WWE—a rivalry that focuses on the Shadow King and his supernatural war with the Firstborn. *Andy Smith* will illustrate the series.

"We've got some truly amazing stories to tell,' ***WWE Heroes*** editor *Ned Hartley* said. "Our first issue is going to blow you away! The 'in-your-face, no-holds-barred' attitude of the WWE works so well as a comic, we just can't wait for people to see the great surprises that we've got in store."

•Dark Horse has tapped popular television and comics writer *Zack Whedon* to do the honors on their new ***Terminator*** series; he'll be joined by interior artist *Andy MacDonald* and cover illustrator *Massimo Carnevale*. Their first issue is slated for March release.



Back to Press

•***Uncle Scrooge #384 2nd Printing*** (OCT098130), in stores 12/23.

•***Blackest Night #1 4th Printing*** (OCT098150), featuring a recolored version of *Ethan Van Sciver's* second printing cover, in stores 12/23.

•***Outsiders #24 2nd Printing*** (OCT098154), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 13/23.

•***Amazing Spider-Man #611 2nd Printing*** (OCT098127), featuring a variant cover by *Skottie Young*, in stores 12/23.

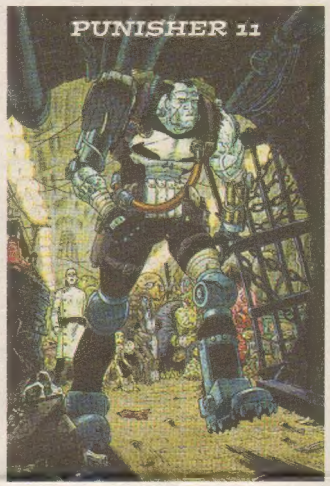
•***Amazing Spider-Man #612 2nd Printing*** (OCT098157), in stores 12/23.

•***Deadpool #17 2nd Printing*** (OCT098139), in stores 12/23.

•***Black Widow Deadly Origin #1 2nd Printing*** (OCT098023), in stores 12/23.

•***Psylocke #1 2nd Printing*** (OCT098024), in stores 12/23.

•***Punisher #11 2nd Printing*** (OCT098128), featuring a variant cover by *Tony Moore*, in stores 12/23.



•***PunisherMax #1 2nd Printing*** (OCT098089), featuring a variant cover by *Steve Dillon*, in stores 12/23.

•***Vengeance of Moon Knight #3 2nd Printing*** (OCT098088), featuring a sketch version of the *Jerome Opena* cover image, in stores 12/23.

•***X-Force #21 2nd Printing*** (OCT098156), in stores 12/23.

•***Image United # 2nd Printing*** (OCT098159), in stores 12/23.

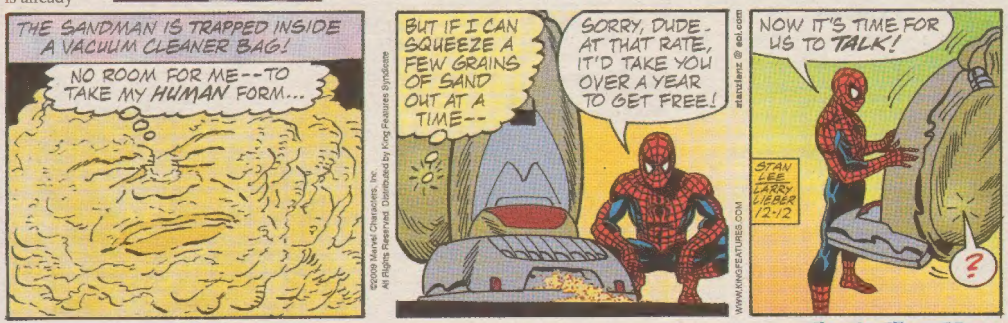
•***Kill Audio #2 2nd Printing*** (OCT098070), in stores this week.

•***The Anchor #2 2nd Printing*** (OCT098129), in stores 12/23.

•***Transformers Ongoing #1 2nd Printing*** (OCT098086), in stores in late December/early January.

•***Female Force: Sarah Palin Going Rogue Edition*** (OCT098131), featuring a new cover and additional brand-new interior pages, in stores 1/13.

•***Wall-E #0 2nd Printing*** (OCT098148), in stores in early January.


THE SANDMAN IS TRAPPED INSIDE A VACUUM CLEANER BAG!
NO ROOM FOR ME--TO TAKE MY HUMAN FORM...
BUT IF I CAN SQUEEZE A FEW GRAINS OF SAND OUT AT A TIME--
SORRY, DUDE - AT THAT RATE, IT'D TAKE YOU OVER A YEAR TO GET FREE!
NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO TALK!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-1-2
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CSN TOP COMICS: JANUARY

ATOM AND HAWKMAN #46 (BLACKEST NIGHT)

Geoff Johns (W); Ryan Sook (A)

(DC NOV090116 $2.99)

CATWOMAN #83 (BLACKEST NIGHT)

Fabian Nicieza (W); Julian Lopez & Bit (A)

(DC NOV090117 $2.99)

PHANTOM STRANGER #42 (BLACKEST NIGHT)

Peter Tomasi (W); Ardian Syaf & Vicente Cifuentes (A)

(DC NOV090118 $2.99)

POWER OF SHAZAM #48 (BLACKEST NIGHT)

Eric Wallace (W); Don Kramer & Michael Babinski (A)

(DC NOV090119 $2.99)

QUESTION #37 (BLACKEST NIGHT)

(Greg Rucka (W); Denys Cowan & Bill Sienkiewicz (A)

(DC NOV090120 $2.99)

SECRET SIX #17 (BLACKEST NIGHT)

John Ostrander & Gail Simone (W); J. Calafiore (A)

(DC NOV090124 $2.99)

STARMAN #81 (BLACKEST NIGHT)

James Robinson (W); Fernando Dagnino & Bill Sienkiewicz(A)

(DC NOV090121 $2.99)

SUICIDE SQUAD #67 (BLACKEST NIGHT)

John Ostrander & Gail Simone (W); J. Calafiore (A)

(DC NOV090123 $2.99)

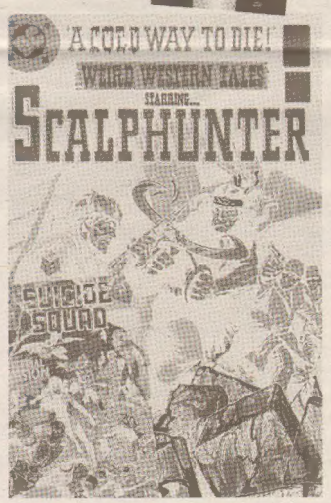
WEIRD WESTERN TALES #71 (BLACKEST NIGHT)

Dan DiDio (W); Renato Arlem (A)

(DC NOV090122 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

For the past six months, we've seen dead heroes rise again—but this month, readers will witness dead *series* rising again, as eight previously-cancelled DC series return from their publishing grave to join the ***Blackest Night*** saga.



Why Should You Care?

DC heroes face off against former adversaries, former partners, former teammates, and former allies in these eight resurrected titles—and one of 'em, ***Suicide Squad***, will link directly to the ongoing ***Secret Six*** series (which is also a ***Blackest Night*** tie-in this month).

AVP THREE WORLD WAR #1 (OF 6)

(Randy Stradley (W); Rick Leonardi (A)

(Dark Horse NOV090027 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

A Predator clan war takes a particularly horrifying turn when one feuding clan finds a way to weaponize Aliens, forcing humans and Predator to join forces, with Machiko Naguchi—the only human known to have spent time among the Hunters—caught in the middle.

Why Should You Care?

The original ***Aliens Versus Predator*** creative team of *Randy Stradley & Rick Leonardi* reunite for this all-new six-parter that pulls together threads from that original ***AvP*** series as well as various ***Aliens*** and ***Predator*** storylines, making it a vital in-continuity tale for all three franchises.

BATMAN AND ROBIN #7

Grant Morrison (W); Cameron Stewart (A)

(DC NOV090125 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batwoman guest-stars in a three-parter that also features Knight and Squire—and it offers additional clues regarding the Domino Killer and details surrounding the "death" of Bruce Wayne.

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison continues the best Batman series on the stands today with a new three-parter that fills in gaps between Batman's ***Final Crisis*** death and his 2010 return... and maybe it'll even have some clues regarding Morrison's 2010 bat-plans.

BLACKEST NIGHT: JSA #2 (OF 3)

James Robinson (W); Eddy Barrows & Ruy José (A)

(DC NOV090112 $2.99)

BLACKEST NIGHT: THE FLASH #2 (OF 3)

Geoff Johns (W); Scott Kolins (A)

(DC NOV090110 $2.99)

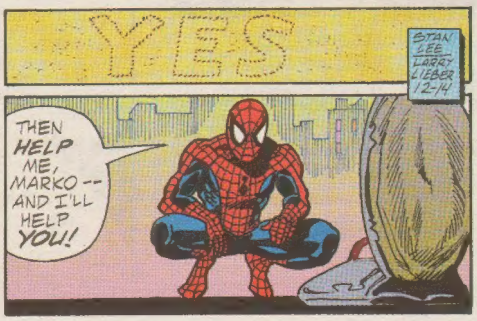
BLACKEST NIGHT: WONDER WOMAN #2 (OF 3)

Greg Rucka (W); Nicola Scott (A)

(DC NOV090114 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Black Lantern Lois Lane tracks down her undead husband in a reunion sure to be anything but happy for Power Girl; the Flashes discover that they're more involved in Nekron's ultimate plan than they ever imagined; Captain Cold finds himself on the run from dead rogues; and Diana finds herself on the edge of death, wondering if it will be her mother, her sister, or her lover who will guide her into the light.



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Why Should You Care?

There may be no ***Blackest Night*** issue this month, but that doesn't mean that the biggest event of 2009 isn't going to continue to warm up the January chill. With three vital miniseries accompanying the eight aforementioned resurrected titles, January's shaping up to be a ***Blackest Night*** bonanza!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #602

Ed Brubaker (W); Luke Ross (A)

(Marvel NOV090463 $3.99)

CAPTAIN AMERICA REBORN #6 (OF 6)

Ed Brubaker (W); Bryan Hitch (A)

(Marvel NOV090429 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Steve Rogers makes his return to the Marvelverse in the finale of his ***Reborn*** series, re-establishing his relationship with Bucky—but he's about to face another complexity from his past when the Captain America of the 1950s returns.

Why Should You Care?

Ed Brubaker finally gives Captain America fans what they've clamored for as the iconic Steve Rogers returns in all his star-spangled glory... but that doesn't mean that everything is going back to the old status quo...

FALL OF HULKS: RED HULK #1 (OF 4)

Jeff Parker (W); Carlos Rodrigues (A)

(Marvel NOV090472 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

What has the Red Hulk been hiding from everyone? And what does it have to do with the Cosmic Hulk robot? Secrets are about to be revealed!

Why Should You Care?

For the past two years, the Red Hulk has been one of the most enigmatic characters in the world of the Hulks—and now, at long last, it appears that we may learn a bit more about who he is and what his plans are!

GREEN LANTERN #50 (BLACKEST NIGHT)

Geoff Johns (W); Doug Mahnke & Christian Alamy (A)

(DC NOV090105 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Hal Jordan faces off against the one being that no amount of will power can defeat: the Black Lantern Spectre! But how far is he willing to go to stop this Spectral rebirth... and what role will Sinestro and others play in his scheme?

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns is reshaping the Green Lantern canon with ***Blackest Night***—and the events of this pivotal issue could have major ramifications in months to come!

IMAGE UNITED #3 (OF 6)

Robert Kirkman (W); Erik Larsen, Rob Liefeld, Todd McFarlane, Whilce Portacio, Marc Silvestri, & Jim Valentino (A)

(Image NOV090321 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

With the original Spawn bringing together the villains of the Image Universe, Image's heroes have quite a challenge ahead of them...

Why Should You Care?

Robert Kirkman and Image's founding members—*Erik Larsen, Rob Liefeld, Todd McFarlane, Whilce Portacio, Marc Silvestri, & Jim Valentino*—make comics history with this crossover series that has each founder illustrating every appearance of his character in this crossover event. It's an ultimate art jam session featuring some of the best illustrators in modern comics history, so how can any art fan resist?

OKAY, MARKO-- I THINK WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.
STAN LEE / LARRY LIEBER 12-15
HEY, SPIDER-MAN--
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JOE THE BARBARIAN #1 (OF 8)

Grant Morrison (W); Sean Murphy (A)

(Vertigo/DC NOV090224 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

A kid finds himself transported to a land inhabited by all his toys... or does he. Is he really the savior of this fantasy land—or is he just a sick young man suffering from insulin-imbalance delirium?

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison may be making history with his superhero work on ***Final Crisis*** and ***Batman,*** but his off-the-beaten-path works like ***Joe the Barbarian***—which Vertigo describes as *"Home Alone* by way of *Lord of the Rings"*—offer him an opportunity to show off what he does best: tell unpredictable, unparalleled stories.

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #41

James Robinson (W); Mark Bagley & Rob Hunter (A)

(DC NOV090153 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Now that the ***Blackest Night*** crossover story has wrapped, it's time for the next phase in the Justice League's history as the new team roster premieres: Batman, Green Lantern, the Atom, Green Arrow, Donna Troy, the Guardian, Cyborg, Mon-El, Starfire, Dr. Light, and Congorilla.

Why Should You Care?

James Robinson & Mark Bagley introduce the new Justice League, a team that combines some of the best "next generation" heroes (Dick Grayson's Batman, Mon-El, Donna Troy) with classic JLA members (Green Lantern, Green Arrow, the Atom) and former Titans (Cyborg and Starfire), along with a few surprises (yes, we're talking about Congorilla). Now let's see how this team coalesces!

MARVEL BOY: URANIAN #1 (OF 3)

Jeff Parker (W); Felix Ruiz (A)

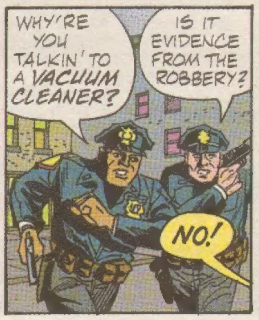
(Marvel NOV090492 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Before an alien became the dark figure that the Agents of Atlas refer to as the Uranian, Bob Grayson made his mark on Marvel history as Marvel Boy. Now his 1950s origins are explored in this three-part series.

Why Should You Care?

Agents of Atlas scribe *Jeff Parker* (who's already proven his skill at updating Marvel's atomic age concepts) takes readers back to that bygone era with this retro-series that "retells for the first time" the exploits of a young man who travelled millions of miles through space to help our world.



NEW AVENGERS #61

Brian Bendis (W); Stuart Immonen (A)

(Marvel NOV090423 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Steve Rogers makes his long-awaited return to the Avengers... but is it too late? The Siege on Asgard has begun, and now Steve has to determine who he can turn to and count on in a world with Norman Osborn in charge.

Why Should You Care?

Brian Bendis is about to launch another round of major changes in the Avengers status quo—and it all starts here!

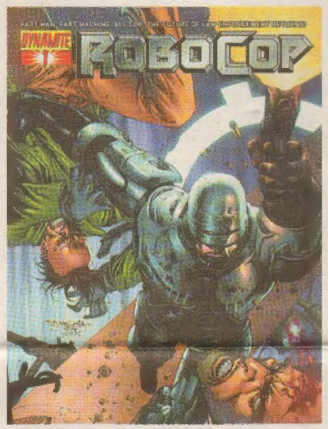
ROBOCOP #1

Rob Williams (W); Fabiano Neves (A)

(Dynamite NOV090716 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Frank Murphy—or more specifically, the technologically restored Frank Murphy—is back in action in this new series that takes the films' concept back to the basics.



Why Should You Care?

With its mixture of dystopian fiction, social commentary, conspiracy theory, and ultra-violence, ***RoboCop*** was a film ahead of its time. But 2010 seems like a great time to bring it back as a comic book—particularly now that there's talk of another ***RoboCop*** film!

SIEGE #1 (OF 4)

Brian Bendis (W); Olivier Coipel (A)

(Marvel NOV090419 $3.99)

SIEGE: EMBEDDED #1 (OF 4)

Brian Reed (W); Chris Samnee (A)

(Marvel NOV090418 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Norman Osborn has used his unprecedented power to overthrow one obstacle after another... and now it's time to tackle the greatest of all challenges, Asgard. Will this act of perfidy be the catalyst that reunites Marvel's heroes to confront the

evil that threatens to take down the Golden Realm? And while *Siege* shows how the heroes respond to the challenge, *Siege: Embedded* offers readers an inside look at how the media responds to Osborn's unprecedented power grab.

Why Should You Care?

Ever since the beginning of *Avengers Disassembled*, the heroes of the Marvel Universe have been polarized and at odds—but *Siege* promises to be the event that forces them to put differences aside and unite for the greater good of the Marvel Universe. This is the final chapter in the multi-event saga that continued through ***House of M, Civil War, Secret Invasion,*** and ***Dark Reign***—and no one who's enjoyed any of those epic tales will want to miss the finale! Of course, part of the appeal of these events is the chance to see how the average person in the Marvelverse views this epic occurrences—and that's where ***Siege: Embedded*** comes in, complementing the story in a *Frontline*-like manner.

ULTIMATE COMICS ENEMY #1 (OF 4)

Brian Bendis (W); Rafa Sandoval (A)

(Marvel NOV090446 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Who's the face of true evil in the Ultimate Universe? What's the biggest secret this world doesn't know? That's what the Ultimate heroes are determined to discover in this four-part miniseries.

Why Should You Care?

Every superhero series needs an ultimate villain—and that's just what *Brian Bendis* delivers here!

Check 'Em Out:
Books You *Should* Be Reading

AIRFIGHTERS #1

(Moonstone NOV090872 $5.99)

Airboy and the Airfighters—including Skywolf, Black Angel, Flying Dutchman, Iron Ace, Bald Eagle, and the Flying Fool— return in this book by Chuck Dixon, Tom DeFalco, & Oscar Celestini. And to top it off, there's a special Captain Midnight tale in here, too!

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #618

(Marvel NOV090452 $2.99)

Mysterio returns in this "Gauntlet" installment—and after seeing Marvel's reinterpretation of Electro and Sandman, who can resist seeing the reinvention of the enigmatic Mysterio?

ARCHIE #605

(Archie NOV090606 $2.50)

Michael Uslan & Stan Goldberg present the final chapter of the "Marriage of Archie" storyline that has put ***Archie*** back on a lot of fans' must-read lists.

AVENGERS VS AGENTS OF ATLAS #1

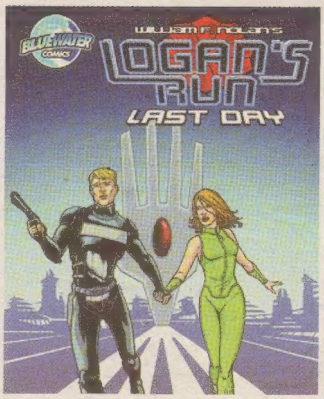
(Marvel NOV090480 $3.99)

The Agents of Atlas unite with a much earlier version of the Avengers— Captain America, Iron Man, Wasp, Giant-Man and Thor are together again, with the atomic wildcard The Hulk—to stop a mysterious erosion of space-time.

CHILL HC

(Vertigo/DC SEP090215 $19.99)

In this noir graphic novel by *Jason Starr & Mick Bertilorenzi*, a serial killer is on the loose, and the ritualized murders are becoming increasingly sadistic. The NYPD and the FBI have a suspect—but the only problem is that every witness provides a different description of her. None of it makes any sense to anyone except Martin Cleary, a beaten-down Irish cop from Boston with a whopper of a secret in his past—and a past that may go back a century or two . . .



LOGAN'S RUN #1

(Bluewater NOV090658 $3.99)

William F. Nolan's acclaimed SF novel of a renegade hoping to escape from a mandated death in a dystopian future comes to comics in this all-new adaptation.

NATION X: X-FACTOR

(Marvel NOV090504 $3.99)

Utopia. The sanctuary for mutants to escape a world that wants them extinct. So is it the ideal home for X-Factor? That's what Cyclops believes...

OUTSIDERS #26

(DC NOV090134 $2.99)

Dan DiDio & Philip Tan begin their Outsiders run with this issue that finds Katana and Black Lightning are dispatched to deal with a terrifying disturbance on the open seas, while Geo-Force is recalled to Markovia to handle affairs of state.

SUPERNATURAL: BEGINNINGS END #1 (OF 6)

(WildStorm/DC NOV090216 $2.99)

The Winchester clan find themselves in the strangest situation imaginable - monster hunting in the Big Apple!

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS #1

(IDW NOV090841 $3.99)

Could all those strange stories in the ***Weekly World News*** actually be true? That's the premise of this offbeat miniseries based on the tabloid you can't resist peeking at whenever you're in line at the grocery store!

WEIRD WORLD OF JACK STAFF #1

(Image NOV090338 $3.50)

Paul Grist relaunches his signature series, this time focusing not only on Jack Staff but also on his eccentric supporting cast.

WIZARDS OF MICKEY #1

(Boom NOV090699 $2.99)

The epic ***Wizards of Mickey*** continues in its own all new ongoing series! Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, and Goofy continue to struggle in the Grand Wizard's tournament, determined to win back the Diamagic from Peg-Leg Pete the Great.

Hot Commodities:
January's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BUCKY MODERN CAPT AMERICA STATUE

(Bowen JUL091502 $265.00)

When everyone assumed that Steve Rogers was dead, it was his former partner who stepped up and took his place, carrying the shield and operating as the sentinel of liberty. Now *Randy Bowen* offers an iconic sculpture of Bucky as Captain America, complete with blue chromed costume highlights.

BATMAN BEYOND 1/6 SCALE COLLECTOR FIGURE

(DC Direct JUN090287 $99.99)

Terry McGinnis, who will wear the mantle of the bat in 2039, is seen here in his state-of-the-art, intricate and authentically detailed Batsuit, complete with glider wings that measure approximately 14' across.

DC DYNAMICS WONDER WOMAN STATUE

(DC Direct JUN090288 $195.00)

Wonder Woman emerges from a billowing cloud to fly through the sky, displaying the grace and beauty that defines the Amazon Princess, in this dynamic sculpture, the latest in a series of statues dedicated to presenting the power and vitality of DC's best-known characters.

HEROES OF THE DCU THE FLASH BUST

(DC Direct JUN090300 $70.00)

This bust features Barry Allen striding into action as designed by *Gary Frank* and sculpted by *Jean St. Jean*.

Collected Cool:
January's Best Reprint Volumes

ALMOST SILENT HC

(Fantagraphics NOV090779 $24.99)

This deluxe hardcover collection presents four largely-wordless Jason classics: ***You Can't Get There From Here; Tell Me Something; Meow, Baby;*** and ***The Living and the Dead.***

DOC SAVAGE: THE SILVER PYRAMID TP

(DC OCT090246 $19.99)

Paving the way for Doc's return in a new miniseries in early 2010, this volume collects the *Doc Savage* 1987 miniseries by *Dennis O'Neil* and *Adam & Andy Kubert*.

MARVEL MASTERWORKS ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE HC VOL 1

(Marvel AUG090547 $59.99)

The 1950s were the era of jungle girls—and now you can enjoy Marvel's contribution to the genre. This 248-page volume collects ***Lorna, the Jungle Queen #s 1-5*** and ***Lorna, the Jungle Girl #s 6-9***, featuring work by *John Buscema, Syd Shores, Jim Mooney, Werner Roth*, and others.

STAR WARS OMNIBUS: SHADOWS OF EMPIRE TP VOL 1

(Dark Horse SEP090039 $24.95)

Luke, Leia, Han, Darth Vader—they're all here in this epic collection that combines ***Shadows of the Empire, Shadows of the Empire: Evolution,*** and ***Mara Jade: By the Emperor's Hand*** in a single volume.

SUPERBOY: THE GREATEST TEAM UPS EVER TOLD TP

(DC OCT090250 $19.99)

Collecting classic Silver Age Superboy team-up tales by *Bill Finger, Otto Binder, Jerry Siegel, Curt Swan, Al Plastino, John Forte*, and others.

THOR BY J MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI PREMIUM HC VOL 3

(Marvel NOV090540 $19.99)

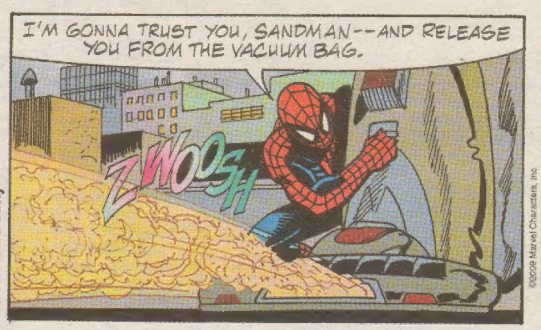
The final quartet of ***Thor*** tales by *J. Michael Straczynski* are presented in this volume collecting ***Thor #s 601-603*** & ***Thor Giant Size Finale***. This completes the run that propelled ***Thor*** to the top of Marvel's sales charts.

UNWRITTEN TP VOL 1: TOMMY TAYLOR—BOGUS IDENTITY TP

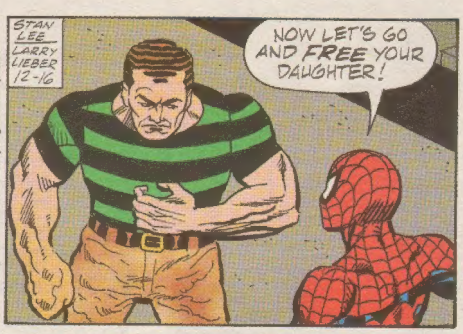
(Vertigo/DC OCT090309 $9.99)

The son of a best-selling author resents his Dad for making him a character in his best-selling fantasy novels... but what he's about to learn is that the novels aren't fictional at all! This bargain-priced collection features the first five issues of *Mike Carey & Peter Gross's* acclaimed series.

twitter.com/csnsider



Colors: Ward Batty



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